

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BANJUL PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 079032

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, OVIP, GV, US, BGEN, EAID

SUBJECT: GUINEAN MINISTER ISMAEL TOURE'S WASHINGTON VISIT

REF: STATE 69257

1. SUMMARY: GUINEAN ECONOMIC AND FINANCE DOMAIN MINISTER
ISMAEL TOURE AND DELEGATION ARRIVED WASHINGTON EVENING
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MARCH 23 BY SPECIAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE FLIGHT. AFTER
PRELIMINARY CALL ON AF/W DIRECTOR MORNING MARCH 24, TOURE
AND DELEGATION MET SUCCESSIVELY WITH AID DEPUTY ASSISTANT
ADMINISTRATOR FOR AFRICA HAVEN NORTH, ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS DERIAN, AND ACTING AF ASSISTANT
SECRETARY HARROP. OUTSIDE DEPARTMENT THEY MET WITH EXIM,
WORLD BANK, OPIC, REYNOLDS COMPANY, AND US STEEL. AF/W
ALTERNATE COUNTRY OFFICER (KILLION) MET DELEGATION AT
ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE AND ACCOMPANIED TO ALL MEETINGS
EXCEPT IBRD AND US STEEL (WHICH ARRANGED SEPARATELY BY

DELEGATION FROM OTTAWA). TOPICS COVERED WERE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE, GUINEAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MONROVIA RECONCILIATION SUMMIT, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND DABOLA AND MIFERGUI-NIMBA PROJECTS. DELEGATION INCLUDED MINISTERS LOUIS HOLLIE AND SORIBA TOURE, CENTRAL BANK VICE GOVERNOR DIALLO, B. DIENG, DIRECTOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, OFFICE OF PRESIDENCY, A. DIALLO OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCE DOMAIN, AND AMBASSADOR CAMARA. END SUMMARY.

2. MEETING WITH AF/W: AF/W DIRECTOR (SMITH) WELCOMED TOURE AND DELEGATION, REFERRED TO OUR EFFORTS TO PROVIDE PROMPT EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE BECAUSE OF DROUGHT, AND NOTED OUR BELIEF THAT THE MARCH 18-19 MONROVIA RECONCILIATION SUMMIT WAS AN EXCELLENT STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION FOR GUINEA AND ITS NEIGHBORS.

3. TOURE EXPLAINED PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT WAS TO THANK DEPARTMENT AND AID FOR SUPPORT -- IN PARTICULAR, FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE. HIS DELEGATION HAD NO SPECIAL PROBLEMS TO RAISE. TOURE AGREED WITH AF/W DIRECTOR'S ASSESSMENT OF MONROVIA SUMMIT. HE FELT THE ASSISTANCE OF PRESIDENTS TOLBERT, JAWARA, AND EYADEMA HAD BEEN VERY HELPFUL IN SETTING THE STAGE FOR THE ACCORD BY GUINEA, SENEGAL, AND IVORY COAST. IMPETUS FOR THE SUMMIT HAD COME FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE'S APPEAL TO THE YOUTH OF GUINEA TO WORK ON RESOLVING PROBLEMS WITH YOUTH OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES (IN DECEMBER SPORTS STADIUM SPEECH HONORING GUINEAN NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM FOR AFRICA CUP VICTORY). THE UNIONS AND WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS HAD JOINED IN THIS RECONCILIATION EFFORT, ENABLING PRESIDENT TOURE TO TAKE THE POLITICAL LEAD TO END DIFFERENCES WITH SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST.

4. CALL ON AF: AF ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARROP WELCOMED TOURE AND DELEGATION. HARROP KNEW DELEGATION WAS HERE FOR INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS, AND APPRECIATED OPPORTUNITY REESTABLISH CONTACT WITH OLD FRIENDS FROM GUINEA. TOURE OUTLINED DABOLA BAUXITE AND ALUMINA PROJECT AND MIFERGUI-NIMBA IRON ORE PROJECT, AND SAID HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH REYNOLDS ALUMINUM AND U.S. STEEL TO DISCUSS THEIR RESPECTIVE INTERESTS. REYNOLDS HAD AGREED "IN PRINCIPLE" TO BECOME INVOLVED IN DABOLA PROJECT. THE KAISER ENGINEERING FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE MIFERGUI-NIMBA PROJECT WOULD BE PRESENTED IN JUNE, AND U.S. STEEL MIGHT AGREE TO MANAGE. BOTH PROJECTS WOULD INVOLVE OTHER MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE ACTIVITIES SUCH AS RAILROADS AND CONAKRY PORT EXPANSION.

5. HARROP WANTED TOURE TO KNOW THAT THE U.S. WAS GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY THE RESULTS OF THE MARCH 18-19 MONROVIA SUMMIT MEETING TO RECONCILE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GUINEA AND

ITS NEIGHBORS SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST. THIS WAS A MAGNIFICENT STEP BY GUINEA IN THE PROPER DIRECTION. TOURE AGREED, AND EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE THAT HIS GOVERNMENT ATTACHED TO TWO ELEMENTS OF THE MONROVIA SUMMIT AGREEMENT: THE GUINEAN DECISION TO RENOUNCE EXTRADITION EFFORTS AGAINST ANTI-REGIME EXILES LIVING IN IVORY COAST AND SENEGAL, AND THE FUTURE FREE CIRCULATION OF BOTH PERSONS

AND GOODS IN THE REGION. HARROP AND TOURE AGREED THIS
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WOULD BENEFIT ECOWAS, AND COULD OPEN THE WAY FOR FUTURE COOPERATION IN OMVS (SENEGAL RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION). TOURE APPRECIATED U.S. AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE 18,000 TONS OF PL 480 TITLE II RICE. HE WELCOMED U.S. INTENT TO CONTINUE COOPERATING WITH GUINEA IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. HARROP EXPLAINED WE ARE NOT HAPPY ABOUT THE DELAYS IN OUR AGRICULTURAL PROJECT IN GUINEA, AND ARE WORKING HARD TO MOVE IT ALONG FASTER. THERE ARE SPECIAL AND UNPRECEDENTED ARCHITECTURAL AND DESIGN PROBLEMS WE HAVE TO OVERCOME. AMBASSADOR CROSBY HAD MADE CLEAR TO US THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED TO FASTER ACTION, AND WE ARE WORKING WITH AID TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION.

6. HARROP REQUESTED THAT TOURE GIVE HIS REGARDS TO PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE, THANKED DELEGATION FOR CALLING ON DEPARTMENT IN MIDST OF CROWDED BUSINESS SCHEDULE, AND WISHED DELEGATION SUCCESS IN ITS DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON.

7. CALL ON AID/AFR: DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR AFRICA NORTH WELCOMED TOURE. TOURE APPRECIATED U.S. ECONOMIC AND EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE, AND ASSERTED DESERTIFICATION WAS BECOMING AN INCREASING PROBLEM FOR GUINEA IN SPITE OF ITS WATER RESOURCES. GUINEA IS TAKING NATIONAL ACTION TO COMBAT DROUGHT AND WELCOMES U.S. ASSISTANCE. TOURE REVIEWED MARCH 18-19 MONROVIA RECONCILIATION SUMMIT, STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF SEKOU TOURE'S INITIATIVE AND THE SUPPORT OF THE OTHER ATTENDING PRESIDENTS. GUINEA HAD FORECAST THAT THE SUMMIT WOULD BE A SUCCESS. IN FACT, PRESIDENT TOLBERT HAD PREPARED THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE BEFORE THE MEETING STARTED, AND IT WAS ACCEPTED UNCHANGED. THE SUMMIT WAS A FAMILY MEETING, AND IT HAS BEEN ARRANGED TO PROVIDE A BASIS FOR FUTURE COOPERATION, ESPECIALLY IN ECOWAS.
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8. TOURE REVIEWED THE DABOLA AND MIFERGUI-NIMBA PROJECTS HE WOULD DISCUSS WITH REYNOLDS AND U.S. STEEL. THESE WERE CRUCIAL TO GUINEA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE. U.S. STEEL HAD PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ENLISTING COOPERATION WITH

U.S., EUROPEAN, ASIAN COUNTRIES PLUS LIBERIA, ALGERIA, LIBYA, AND GUINEA ITSELF. U.S. STEEL ESTIMATED THE PLAN OR PROJECT WOULD COST DOLS 850 MILLION. THE WORLD BANK WOULD ALSO PROVIDE SUPPORT. DOLS 350 MILLION WOULD COME FROM PRIVATE INVESTORS, DOLS 170 MILLION FROM THE LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT AND DOLS 280 MILLION FROM THE GUINEAN GOVERNMENT. NORTH THANKED TOURE FOR HIS EXPLANATIONS. THE U.S. PLACES GREAT EMPHASIS ON COOPERATION AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF WEST AFRICA IN PROMOTING OVERALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. AID COULD HELP ON FOOD AID, AND LOOKS FORWARD TO CLOSE

COOPERATION WITH GUINEA.

9. MEETING WITH HA: ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS DERIAN THANKED TOURE FOR ARRANGING TIME IN BUSY SCHEDULE TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS. SHE HAD MET LAST YEAR WITH VISITING GUINEAN PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI, AND WOULD BE VISITING GUINEA AND OTHER AFRICAN STATES IN NEAR FUTURE. WE ARE AWARE OF GUINEA'S DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES IN GAINING INDEPENDENCE AND KNOW OF THE SACRIFICES MADE BY THE GUINEAN PEOPLE. WE WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE AN EXPANDED RELATIONSHIP. THE ONLY BARRIER NOW BETWEEN GUINEA AND U.S. IS GUINEA'S HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE. DERIAN OUTLINED U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY, EMPHASIZING IT REPRESENTS NOT JUST AN AMERICAN VALUE BUT ONE SHARED BY VIRTUALLY ALL PEOPLES. THE U.S. IS ENCOURAGED BY THE DECEMBER AMNESTY, AND BY THE VISIT OF THE ICRC DELEGATE. THESE HAVE GREAT IMPORTANCE BECAUSE OF INTEREST IN U.S. CONGRESS, PUBLIC, AND THE MEDIA IN HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS OF CITIZENS OF GUINEA. DEPARTMENT NOW TRYING TO ANALYZE IMPORT OF THOSE TWO GUINEA ACTIONS. DO THEY REPRESENT A CONFIDENTIAL

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NEW COURSE, OR ARE THEY ISOLATED? WILL THEY CONTINUE? DERIAN ASKED FOR TOURE'S COMMENTS ON THESE POINTS, STRESSING THAT WE WOULD PARTICULARLY LIKE TO KNOW PLANS FOR AMNESTY OF REMAINING POLITICAL PRISONERS.

10. TOURE THANKED DERIAN FOR RECEIVING THE DELEGATION. HE EXPLAINED THEY HAD BEEN IN CANADA ON A PURELY ECONOMIC MISSION WHEN THEY WERE TOLD THAT IT WOULD BE VERY IMPORTANT TO COME TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT. TOURE AGREED THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ASSERTED THAT GUINEA SUPPORTS PERSIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY. ALL STATES -- ESPECIALLY THOSE OF AFRICA -- SHOULD ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE U.S. IN THIS EFFORT. TOURE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE IMPORTANCE WHICH A POWERFUL "MATERIALISTIC" COUNTRY SUCH AS THE U.S. PLACES ON "ABSTRACT" VALUE SUCH AS HUMAN RIGHTS. GUINEA'S EFFORTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS, TOURE FELT, WERE IN ACCORD WITH THE UN CHARTER. GUINEA'S SOCIETY CAN ONLY DEVELOP IN A SECURE, SAFE, LONG-TERM MANNER IF IT

CAN RECOGNIZE HUMAN RIGHTS. THE ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTS WHICH DERIAN HAD REFERRED TO WERE IMPORTANT, AND THE CURRENT TENDENCY OF GUINEA IS TO GO EVEN BEYOND SUCH STEPS. TOURE STRESSED THAT GUINEA WANTS TRUE RECONCILIATION, AND CITED THE MARCH 18-19 MONROVIA SUMMIT AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH GUINEA ABANDONED ITS EFFORTS TO EXTRADITE GUINEAN EXILES WHO HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITIES. A LINE HAS BEEN DRAWN THROUGH THE PAST ON THIS. GUINEA HAS CONFIDENCE IN ITS OWN PEOPLE IN GUINEA, WHO ARE FAR MORE NUMEROUS THAN THE EXILES.

11. THE ONLY LIMITS TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUINEA, TOURE ASSERTED, ARE THOSE IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIETY AND THE STATE. AS A NATION ADVANCES ITS FIRST DUTY IS TO SEE THAT
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SOCIETY-STATE RIGHTS DO NOT IMPINGE ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS. TOURE FELT THAT A STRONG AND FREE COUNTRY WHOSE CITIZENS DO NOT BENEFIT FROM ALL RIGHTS HAS AN EPHEMERAL POSITION, WITH NO SIGNIFICANCE IN HISTORY. TOURE CONCLUDED WITH REFERENCES TO GUINEA'S RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE, ITS FIGHT AGAINST ARBITRARY DISCRIMINATION, ITS PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST WOMAN TO PRESIDE OVER THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AS GUINEA'S REPRESENTATIVE, AND ITS SUPPRESSION OF POLYGAMY. THERE IS PROGRESS, BUT GUINEA HAS AN OVERALL EVOLUTION TO PROMOTE. HE COULD ASSURE DERIAN THAT GUINEA SEEKS EMANCIPATION AND HARMONIZATION. DERIAN THANKED TOURE FOR HIS COMMENTS AND LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING HIM AGAIN DURING HER VISIT TO GUINEA.

12. MEETING WITH EXIM BANK: TOURE, VICE GOVERNOR DIALLO, MINISTER S. TOURE, AND AMBASSADOR CAMARA BROKE AWAY FROM IBRD LUNCHEON DISCUSSION TO MEET WITH DIRECTOR DE SAINTPHALLE, DEPUTY VICE PRESIDENT MORAN, ECONOMIST HUBER, AND LOAN OFFICER GUADAGNOLI. EXIM REPS SAID BASIC PROBLEM WAS INABILITY TO OBTAIN NECESSARY BASIC DATA ON GUINEA'S ECONOMY -- BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, EXTERNAL DEBT, FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES, AND PROJECTION FOR FUTURE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE. ON THE BASIS OF THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EXIM NOW, IT CANNOT CONSIDER GUINEA CREDIT-WORTHY. DIALLO ACKNOWLEDGED DIFFICULTIES, POINTING OUT IT REQUIRED OVER EIGHT MONTHS TO DEVELOP 1976 GNP FIGURE, WHICH WAS ABOUT DOLS 2.5 BILLION, WITH 6 PERCENT GROWTH RATE. DIALLO ESTIMATED 1976 FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS RECEIVED DIRECTLY BY GOVERNMENT OF GUINEA FROM BOKE AT ABOUT DOLS 55 MILLION IN 1976, GROWING TO ABOUT DOLS 70 MILLION IN 1977 WHEN EXPORTS EXPECTED INCREASE FROM 7 MILLION TONS TO 9 MILLION TONS. TOTAL INCLUDING FRIGUIA FOR 1977 ESTIMATED AT DOLS 80 MILLION. ON EXTERNAL DEBT, ISMAEL TOURE POINTED TO ACCOUNTING PROBLEMS RE AMORTIZATION OF SOVIET DEBT, SINCE THERE IS STILL DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN GUINEA AND USSR ON TERMS. EXIM ASKED GUINEAN DELEGATION

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TO ALLOW IMF TO RELEASE ITS GUINEA DATA TO EXIM. WITHOUT THIS INFORMATION EXIM IN NO POSITION TO MEET ITS OWN CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE ONLY WITH REASONABLE ASSURANCE OF REPAYMENT. DELEGATION HAD PROBLEMS WITH THIS, BUT AGREED DISCUSS ISSUE WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES UPON RETURN AND TO BE IN TOUCH WITH EXIM.

13. MEETING WITH OPIC: ACTING PRESIDENT POATS, VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT SMITH, B. HENDERSON, AND OPIC REPS WELCOMED DELEGATION. TOURE OUTLINED DABOLA AND

MIFERGUI-NIMBA PROJECTS. POATS STRESSED OPIC INTEREST IN ASSISTING GUINEA, BUT NOTED NO U.S. FIRMS HAD APPROACHED OPIC FOR INVOLVEMENT. POATS DESCRIBED NEW OPIC AUTHORITY TO ASSIST IN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, AND TOURE REFERRED TO CURRENT BUTTES OIL AND GAS OFF-SHORE GUINEA ACTIVITIES.

14. MEETING WITH REYNOLDS ALUMINUM: VICE PRESIDENT FEATHERSTEIN, OFFICIALS FULLER AND ARNAUD HAD EVENING BUSINESS MEETING WITH DELEGATION, FOLLOWED BY DINNER. TOURE GAVE DETAILS OF DABOLA PROJECT AND SOLICITED REYNOLDS INTEREST. WHEN FEATHERSTEIN ASKED IF GUINEA SOUGHT REYNOLDS INVESTMENT OR STRICTLY MANAGEMENT, TOURE SUGGESTED BOTH. FEATHERSTEIN EXPRESSED REYNOLDS INTEREST, BUT HIS COMPANY COULD MAKE NO DECISIONS UNTIL CAREFUL REVIEW OF DABOLA PROJECT STUDY AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION NOW IN HANDS OF YUGOSLAV SHAREHOLDER. TOURE SAID YUGOSLAVS NOW TRANSLATING STUDY INTO FRENCH AND ENGLISH (SUMMARY ONLY) WHICH WOULD BE PROVIDED TO REYNOLDS. AT FEATHERSTEIN REQUEST, TOURE AGREED PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION PROMPTLY IN FRENCH RATHER THAN RELYING ON YUGOSLAV ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSION. TOURE SAID ALL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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SHOULD BE IN REYNOLDS' HANDS BEFORE JUNE COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING IN LAGOS TO REVIEW NEXT STEPS FOR DABOLA PROJECT. REYNOLDS ALSO PROPOSED THAT PRESENT PROJECT SHAREHOLDERS UNDERTAKE OPERATION ON BASIS OF 1.2 MILLION TONS PER YEAR INITIAL BAUXITE PRODUCTION, ACCEPTING OTHER SHAREHOLDERS AS PRODUCTION GREW DURING 3-5 YEAR PERIOD NEEDED TO REACH MAXIMUM ANNUAL OUTPUT. TOURE AGREED RAISE THIS WITH OTHER SHAREHOLDERS.

FYI: REYNOLDS VP FEATHERSTEIN TOLD KILLION AT END OF MEETING AND DINNER DISCUSSION THAT TOURE'S MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL HAD COME AS SURPRISE. REYNOLDS HESITANT TO TAKE ON MANAGEMENT OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT DESIGNED AND BUILT

BY YUGOSLAVS. IN REYNOLDS EXPERIENCE, COMPANY WHICH
DESIGNS AND BUILDS SHOULD ALSO MANAGE. REYNOLDS WOULD
CONSIDER TOURE'S CAREFUL AND AUTHORITATIVE PRESENTATION,
HOWEVER, AND WOULD GIVE SERIOUS ATTENTION TO STUDY AND
OTHER DOCUMENTATION WHEN RECEIVED. END FYI. VANCE

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